Cenral Agricultural Schemes In H.P.

1056. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central schemes under implementation in Himachal Pradesh, to substantially increase agricultural production in the State, district-wise and

(b) the results achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for increasing agricultural production in Himachal Pradesh are Macro Management Scheme, Oilseed Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and Integrated Pest Management. Under these Schemes the funds are released to the State Government, which in turn passes on to the implementing agencies in the State depending on crop specific interventions.

(b) There is a long term growth rate in production and productivity of foodgrains and oilseeds in the State of Himanchal Pradesh albeit with fluctions due to aberrant weather conditions.

Unstable prices of agricultural products

1057. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being undertaken by Government to protect farmers from unstable price of agricultural product;

(b) whether the farmers are getting full protection through these measures;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to take any concrete measures in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) In order to protect the farmers from unstable prices of agricultural products, the Government takes several measures which include announcement of minimum support prices (MSPs) each season of major agricultural commodities, undertaking price support operations of major agricultural commodities by the designated central nodal agencies under the MSP scheme and using instruments of trade to encourage exports and discourage imports of agricultural commodities, etc. The designated central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations in case the market prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. The Government is also implementing market intervention scheme (MIS) for horticultural commodities and other minor agricultural crops which are perishable in nature. The MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government(s) which are ready to bear 50% of the losses (25% in the case of north-eastern States) if any, in its implementation. The Government has also taken various measures to promote agro export with a view to expand market for agricultural produce thereby helping farmers realize better and more stable prices. Import duties on many of the agricultural commodities have been increased. The imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through proper use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any injury to the domestic farmers. Fluctuation in wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are also monitored continuously so as to enable the Government to intervene in the market whenever needed.

Likely reduction in production cost of cotton in USA

†1058. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production cost of cotton for cotton growers in USA is likely to decrease due to governmental financial aid to them;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.